

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by replacing the following paragraphs in order to conform the reference numerals to the replacement drawing of Figure 1 filed with this document. No new matter has been added.

[0035] As illustrated schematically in FIG. 1, the communication and medical diagnostic apparatus CMD of the present invention includes a motor 110 for generating vibration, which is connected to a vibrating head 112 by a shaft 114. A power source 116, preferably a battery, provides electrical power to the motor 110. A vibration mode selector 118 allows a user to operate the apparatus CMD, either in the communication mode to receive or transmit signals via a communication signal receiver/transmitter 120 for paging, voice, data, etc., purposes, or in the diagnostic mode to detect or monitor neuropathy. In the communication mode, the motor 110 generates vibration at, for example, standard paging or beeping magnitude or frequency. In the diagnostic mode, however, the user can select to generate vibration at a desired magnitude (or amplitude) and/or frequency by activating the magnitude/frequency selector 122. In particular, the apparatus CMD is pre-programmed to generate vibration of a fixed or variable magnitude and/or frequency. The fixed magnitude would be of various preselected values that can be chosen by the user. Likewise, the variable magnitude would vary at preselected values in a linear, curvilinear, or step-like manner, that can also be chosen by the user. Along the same lines, the apparatus CMD is operable to generate vibration at various preselected fixed or variable frequencies.

[0036] The apparatus CMD is further provided with a display 124 to indicate the selected magnitude and/or frequency of the vibration. In addition to or as an alternative, the apparatus CMD may be provided with a mechanism to audibly indicate the vibration magnitude and/or frequency. Although not shown, the apparatus CMD may include a suitable memory chip and a microprocessor, or the like components for storing and/or processing the data, such as tested VPT, VDT, VT, etc. This would be particularly useful in monitoring the progress of treatment for neuropathy over time and/or to perform serial evaluation in, for example, hemodialysis patients. In addition, this would assist a person in detecting (or monitoring) neuropathy for self-diagnostic or self-evaluation purposes.

[0038] The vibrating head or probe 112 is preferably made of a plastic or metal material and may have a tubular or solid configuration projecting out from an end of the apparatus CMD.

[0039] The motor 110 can be a small DC motor with an offset weight on the shaft 114, or a piezoelectric or other transducer, capable of generating a vibration of a magnitude and/or frequency that is low enough not to be heard by the subject, but sufficient to allow detection.